

REMARKS

Applicant requests favorable reconsideration and allowance of the subject application in view of the preceding amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1, 2, 5-8, 10, 11, 15 and 18-32 are presented for consideration. Claims 1, 5, 6, 19, 22, 29 and 31 are independent. Non-elected claims 3, 4, 12-14, 16 and 17 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicant reserves the right to file a divisional application directed to the subject matter of these claims. Claims 1, 5, 6, 19, 22, 29 and 31 have been amended to clarify features of the subject invention. Support for these changes can be found in the original application, as filed. Accordingly, no new matter has been added.

Applicant notes with appreciation the courtesies extended by Examiner Brown in contacting Applicant's undersigned representative to discuss formal amendments to independent claims 1, 5, 6, 19, and 22, in order to place the subject application in condition for allowance. Specifically, the Examiner noted that independent claims 29 and 31 recite a feature that the calculating means (claim 29) or the correction means (claim 31) perform operation while excluding influence of a reflection light component. The Examiner suggested that incorporating such a feature in independent claims 1, 5, 6, 19 and 22 would place those claims in allowable form. Accordingly, to expedite allowance of the subject application, Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 5, 6, 19 and 22 in light of the Examiner's comments. Applicant also has corrected minor informalities in independent claims 29 and 31.

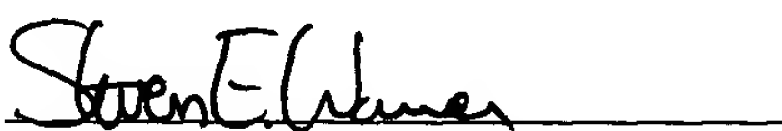
For the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that the present invention, as recited in independent claims 1, 5, 6, 19, 22, 29 and 31, is patentably defined over the art of record, whether that art is taken individually or in combination.

The dependent claims also should be deemed allowable, in their own right, for defining other patentable features of the present invention in addition to those recited in their respective independent claims. Further individual consideration of these dependent claims is requested.

Applicant further submits that the instant application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejection set forth in the above-noted Office Action and an early Notice of Allowance are requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,


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